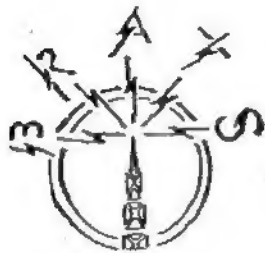


June, 2015



# the milliwatt



The award-winning monthly publication of  
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society  
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

## **FCC ELIMINATES AMATEUR RADIO VANITY CALL SIGN REGULATORY FEE:**

The FCC is eliminating the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given, which will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explains in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, (MD Docket 14-92 and others), released May 21s a matter of simple economics.

The FCC says it spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment. The Notice states, As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee, we are eliminating this regulatory fee category. The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is \$21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reports there were 11,500 so-called payment units. in Fiscal Year 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100.

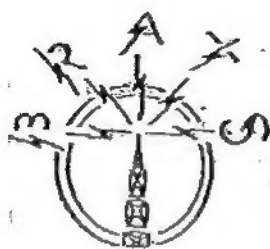
## **US NAVY-MARINE CORPS MARS PROGRAM TO END**

The US Department of Defense is phasing out the US Navy-Marine Corps Military Auxiliary Radio System or MARS program. Its operational mission will transition to the other MARS service branches by the end of September. The head of the US Navy-Marine Corps MARS program in Williamsburg, Virginia, made the announcement. Current individual members and clubs are encouraged to begin submission of applications to US Army MARS or US Air Force MARS programs as soon as possible. The Navy-Marine Corps MARS program also supports the US Coast Guard as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the US Department of Homeland Security, and local emergency management agencies.

## **ARRL to Change Administrator for Insurance Plans**

Effective May 26, 2015, the ARRL will be changing the program administrator for its sponsored Equipment and Club Liability insurance plans. Beginning on that date, all program administration including policy application, issuance and claims administration will be handled by Risk Strategies, a privately held, national insurance brokerage firm. The ARRL programs will be administered from their offices in Chicago, Illinois.

This move is being made based on the results of numerous comments from the ARRL membership relative to the former administrator, Hays Affinity Group which is based out of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The transaction, unlike previous changes, will involve a transfer of the total program business from Hays Affinity to Risk Strategies. Participants in the programs will retain their current insurance policies and the details of the coverage and the cost of coverage will remain unchanged, as will the insurance company, Hanover Insurance Company. An e-mail will be sent to all the current participants in the programs describing the changes and what, if anything, they need to do to access their on-line information.



## the Milliwatt

The award-winning monthly  
publication of The BRATS.  
Items herein may be reprinted  
with appropriate credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

### Some Thoughts

As you can see, we are still working on meeting sites/ The library works on a month-to-month basis. The Greene Turtle does not always have the meeting room available. June is Greene Turtle, July and August is the library. September and following is yet to be determined. If you have any ideas, please let us know. See ya at a meeting.  
Thanks and 73,  
Mayer, W3GXX

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**The Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282**

A non-profit organization under section 501 (c) (3)  
of the internal Revenue Code and a non-profit  
corporation in the State of Maryland

Member: ARRL, Foundation for Amateur Radio

**Home Page:** <http://www.bratsatv.org>

**Email:** [brats@bratsatv.org](mailto:brats@bratsatv.org)

**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7 PM at the  
Greene Turtle, Owings Mills, MD or  
The Pikesville Library; 1301 Reisterstown Rd.

**President:** Oryx Gazaella, K0RYX

**Vice Pres.:** Kevin Sherwood, KB3PLX

**Secretary:** Ted Bauer, WA3AER

**Treasurer:** Jim Sherwood, KB3SKN

**Chairman of the Board:**

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

=====

### BRATS REPEATERS

Linked, WB3DZO

147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

Stand alone:

443.350+, 224.8-

Packet Nodes:

W3GXT=5 145.05

W3GXT-10 224.52

ATV repeaters W3WCQ

inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

Outputs: 439.25, 911.25

### BRATS WEEKLY NETS

Monday 9 PM Traffic and Info

Tues. 11:45 Informal ATV

Wednes. 9 PM CATS ATV

Thurs 9 PM BRATS ATV

Sat. 1 PM Weekly News Bulletin

Sun 8 PM BRATS ATV net

AS Needed: Skywarn

### BRATS Board of Directors

Through December, 2015

K2GZL, N3GXH

Through December, 2016

W3MSR, K9FXV

### BRATS MEETINGS

Monday, June 8: Greene Turtle

Red Run Blvd. Owings Mills, MD

Monday, July 13, August 10:

at the Pikesville Library

1301 Reisterstown Road

All meetings start at 7:00 PM

Please plan to join us

June, 2015

**Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society**  
**MINUTES of the 11 May 2015**  
**Monthly Meeting**

OryxG, KORYX chaired meeting, held at the Greene Turtle, Owings Mills.

**/REPORTS**

- Minutes: Minutes from the April meeting accepted, approved.
- Treasurer: Combined April through 11 May report accepted and approved. Net accounts decrease \$178.12 since March.
- Repeater/Equipment: Decommission 220 standalone, and split 220 linked off to focus efforts on one solid 220 repeater with two receive sites; offer 220 standalone as-is to nearby clubs.

Will obtain, configure new Chinese receivers for 2M, 70cM at all sites. Plan to set up complete 2M, 70cM repeater site packages, ready-to-go, including PC control.

Discussed obtaining 4 Yaesu DR-1X repeaters to update old equipment. OryxG and KevinS will prepare and submit the club application.

- Events: MS is providing 4 rooms for our volunteers to support the Easton bicycle ride.

**/OLD BUSINESS**

- Meeting Room Reservation: OryxG will follow up with BCPL in TedB's absence. Ted provided contact and meeting dates info. NOTE: BCPL is making changes to its reservation policy the preclude reserving a room for the entire year. We may wish to explore other options.

**/NEW BUSINESS**

none

Next Meeting: Monday, June 8,  
Greene Turtle  
Owings Mills, Patio  
Ted, WA3AER, Secretary

## US Naval Academy PSK31 CubeSat Transponders Active

PSK31 transponders on two US Naval Academy CubeSats are operational, according to Bob Bruninga, WB4APR. The CubeSats launched on May 20 from Cape Canaveral on an Atlas 5 launcher. The launch included a pair of 1.5U CubeSats — the PSAT APRS/PSK31 satellite and BRICsat, a propulsion/PSK31 satellite — as well as a 3U CubeSat, USS Langley (Unix Space Server Langley). The launch also included The Planetary Society's LightSail-1.

Bruninga said PSAT is a student satellite project named in honor of USNA alum Bradford Parkinson, of GPS fame. It contains an APRS transponder for relaying remote telemetry, sensor, and user data from remote users and Amateur Radio environmental experiments or other data sources back to Amateur Radio experimenters via a global network of Internet-linked ground stations. A Brno University transponder on PSAT supports multi-user PSK31 text messaging (28.120 MHz uplink/435.350 MHz FM downlink). Bruninga said the PSAT telemetry on 145.825 MHz (1200 baud AX.25) is working okay, but the digipeater is off at present, since the PSK31 transponder is the primary mission. The APRS downlink page is now capturing PSAT telemetry. The PSK31 multi-user FDMA transponder experiment on PSAT and BRICsat is similar to the one on RAFT and PCSAT2. It allows text messaging among up to 30 modest ground stations simultaneously, Bruninga said. The BRICsat and PSAT PSK31 transponders are on separate spacecraft but on the same frequency, although one has PSK telemetry on 315 Hz, the other on 365 Hz.

Bruninga said BRICsat's telemetry has been heard, but has been cycling off, due to low power. He said the BRICsat PSK31 downlink has been heard, but only barely when it's on. The USS Langley spacecraft has not been heard yet, he said.

BRICsat transmits 9600 baud telemetry on 437.975 MHz. The USS Langley satellite transmits 9600 baud telemetry on 437.475 MHz.

The LightSail-1 packet 9600 baud (FSK) AX.25 downlink is on 437.435 MHz. The Planetary Society's Jason Davis is asking radio amateurs to e-mail him any data they collect from LightSail, including any screenshots.

Bruninga has invited APRS radio amateurs worldwide to tune into the packet downlinks and IGate packets into the global APRS-IS system, so they will appear on the APRS downlink page, and also to try out the "exciting, new full-duplex PSK31 way of multi-user communication."

PSAT is one of five APRS-networked Amateur Radio satellites that will be in orbit during 2015, and all will appear on the live APRS downlink page. The others include PCsat-1, in orbit since 2001, QIKcom-1, set to launch in September, QIKcom-2, set to launch in December, and the ARISS packet radio system on board the International Space Station since 2007. (ARRL LETTER)

## HEARD ISLAND 2016 UPDATE

In DX up front, word that Cordell Expeditions has signed a contract with Nigel Jolly, owner and operator of the Braveheart for the expedition to Heard Island, and moved the project schedule to March and April of 2016. As of now, the ship will depart from Cape Town, South Africa, proceed directly to Heard Island, and finally to Fremantle, Australia. The stay at Heard Island will be nominally March 16th to April 8th, 2016 using the call sign V-K-zero-E-K. While the radio operation is the primary goal, the team will also carry out a limited scientific program, including a search for new species that can enhance our understanding of biodiversity and the effects of climate change. (OPDX)

June, 2015

## ARRL DX BULLETIN

**GUINEA, 3X.** Michael, PA5M is QRV as 3XY5M from Conakry. Activity is on the HF bands. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via PA7FM.

**OMAN, A4.** Khalis, A4100 has been active using RTTY on 20 meters around 2130z and then later at 0030z. QSL direct via A61BK.

**IRAN, EP.** Mohsen, EP3SMI has been active using RTTY on 15 meters around 1500z. QSL to home call.

**MONGOLIA, JT.** Special event station JT150ITU is QRV until December 2015 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the International

Telecommunications Union. QSL direct to JT1CD.

**POLAND, SP.** Members of club station SP5POT are QRV with special event call SN2015PPJB until August 8 during the context of the Polish Junior Cup Baggi from near Grojec. QSL via SP5POT.

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2.** Tim, W3ATB is QRV as V25TV from Antiguawhile here on business. Activity is on the HF bands with QRP power and CW in his spare time. QSL to home call.

**BURKINA FASO, XT.** Harald, DF2WO is QRV as XT2AW from Ouagadougou until June 25. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and PSK. He may schedule QSOs on 6 meters. QSL via M0OXO.

### GR2RS DX News – 24 May 2015

Paulo, CT1FJZ, is currently active from the Congo Republic as TN/CT1FJZ. He has been active so far on 20 metres SSB. No other information or length of stay is available.

QSL via the home call. G8OFQ has announced he will be active stroke HC8 from the Galapagos Islands from 1 July to 30 September. Operations will be on 160 through six metres but no times or modes have been mentioned. QSL via HA3JB.

## WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Jun 6-7	10-10 Open Season PSK Contest SEANET Contest IARU Region I Field Day, CW RSGB National Field Day Alabama QSO Party
Jun 13-14	Portugal Day Contest REF 6m Contest
Jun 13-15	ARRL June VHF Contest
June 20-12	All Asian Contest CW
June 27-28	Ukrainian RTTY Contest His Majesty King of Spain, SSB ARRL FIELD DAY

### ON THE AIR: Special Event Station CELEBRATING EAA AIRVENTURE 2015

On the air, word that the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club we will again be hosting Special Event Station W-9-Zed-L at the 2015 EAA Airventure. This is the worlds largest air show and fly-in, to take place in Oshkosh, Wisconsin from July 22 thru July 26th.

W-9-Zed-L will operate from the EAA grounds on 14.250, 7.250, and 50.150 SSB. A certificate will be available for your QSL and large self addressed stamped envelope sent to Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, AirVenture 2015, PO Box 2346, Appleton Wisconsin, 54912. The Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club has been sponsoring this special event station for 22 years. (AB9AH)

## SURPRISE DROP IN AUSTRALIAN HAM LICENCE RENEWAL FEES

A 12 month renewal for an Amateur license in Australia is \$51 as of April 5th. That's a drop of \$24 from the \$75 that applied to renewals earlier this year. The last time that Australian license fee renewals were at \$51 was 20 years ago in Australian dollars of course. Translated into U-S dollars that's 80 cents for the U-S dollar versus a full dollar in Australian currency. (VK2ZRH)



## Hamfests

**Sunday, June 14:** Manassas, VA  
Prince William County Fairgrounds  
Manassas, VA; info via email:  
chairman@manassashamfest.org

**Sunday, June 21, 2015:** BARC  
Tailgate fest at Arcadia Vol. FD  
grounds, 16020 Carnival Ave, Upperco  
MD 21155. A few miles north on Rte. 30  
From the top of I-795. 8AM to 12 Noon.  
Contact Bill Dobson, N3WD

**Sunday, July 19:**  
**NO BRATS MARYLAND HAMFEST!**  
Nobody stepped forward to volunteer to run it,,,

## BARC VE Exams

Sunday, June 7  
Sunday, July 12  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
141 Lavern Ave., Lansdowne  
Walk-ins accepted;  
Register at 1:30, exams start at 2PM  
No one admitted after exams begin

### LARC VE EXAMS

364 Main St. Laurel,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. at 9 AM;  
John, WB3GXW,  
301-572-5124

**MD Mobileers VE Exams at**  
National Electronics Museum,  
Linthicum  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6 PM  
Mike, KA2JAI, 443-310-4902  
KA2JAI@arrl.net

## FCC TO OPEN UP NEW SPECTRUM TO TECH AND TELECOM COMPANIES

The Federal Communications Commission recently voted unanimously to open a parcel of government controlled airwaves in the 3.5 gigahertz band for commercial use by tech and telecom companies. This as it seeks to meet growing data demands from new wireless devices. The strategy would allow wireless providers and others to use the airwaves without charge similar to Wi-Fi, or to buy licenses for short-term exclusive use in some areas if the airwaves get crowded. The plan to open up the frequencies could help boost the capacity of companies existing wireless networks, especially in densely populated locations or indoors. It could even help wirelessly connect specific devices like thermostats or washing machines to facilitate the Internet of things. The FCC has been developing the system, known as the Citizens Broadband Radio Service, since 2012 and has drawn interest from various wireless Internet service and device companies. Trade groups such as the Telecommunications Industry Association praised the move. (Published news reports, via ARNewsline)

### Australia: Spectrum Review report released

**23/ 05/ 2015** The Department of Communications has released its Spectrum Review Report, recommending replacement of the Radiocommunications Act with a new Act and reforming the current licensing framework into a single licensing system. (WIA)

## Milliwatt Swap Shop

Ads are free and get results!

Mail your ad to: BRATS, Box 5915

Baltimore, MD 21282-5915 or

email to [w3gxxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxxk@verizon.net)

FOR SALE: Hustler G7-144 \$125.  
HRO price \$199. N3BHE  
410-299-5931

SPECIAL: ICOM BC110 battery  
charger, 12vDC, 200 ma for ICOM  
T8A or equivalent, cost \$46,  
Make me a reasonable offer.  
Mayer, [w3gxxk@verizon.net](mailto:w3gxxk@verizon.net)

JADE COMPUTERS  
1009 Ingleside Ave. Balto 21228.  
443-667-4187,  
[joe@jadecomputers.us](mailto:joe@jadecomputers.us)  
web page design, hosting ,  
order PC ONLINE.  
<http://www.jadecomputers.us>

VTS Video Taping Service  
video, DVD duplications,  
Video tape transferred to DVD,  
Standards, conversions,,,  
1-877-891-1002. BRATS  
member Bob Shapiro, K2MYS  
<http://www.videotaping-service.com>

Antique radio repair, restoration  
Eric WA3TAD, audio visual service,  
Retro radio, 3401 Chestnut Ave.  
Balto. 21211, 410-467-3620  
[wa3tad@comcast.net](mailto:wa3tad@comcast.net)

WANTED AC Gilbert erector sets:  
Old, new, large, small, need not be  
Complete. CASH PAID!  
Lewis, 410-296-4874.

WANTED: Manual for MFJ 1452,  
WB2LOO, [gkm313@verizon.net](mailto:gkm313@verizon.net)

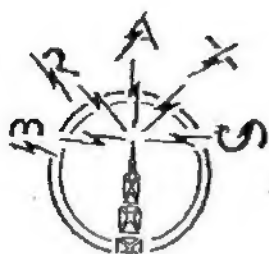
WANTED: YOUR AD!  
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Dava Newman, KB1HIK  
See story next page

## NZ TO PHASE-OUT 25 KHZ LAND MOBILE RADIO CHANNELS

Effective November 1st all 25 kHz Land Mobile Radio licenses in New Zealand operating on frequencies below 470 MHz will be phased out except for those used for Supervisory C and Data Acquisition in C and D band spectrum blocks. These channels are being phased out to promote more efficient use of Land Mobile Radio bands, reduce congestion, and align New Zealand with international Land Mobile Radio practice. Affected licensees were informed of the phase out deadline by letters sent in November of 2010. (RSM)



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**June, 2015**

## BRATS MEETINGS

June 8: Greene Turtle  
Owings Mills, MD  
July 13, August 10:  
Pikesville Library

## BARC Meetings

Wednesday  
June 17 11:17 at  
Wegmans Hunt Valley  
upstairs dining room

## Other Clubs

### CARA

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 PM  
Columbia Gateway Center  
Room 401; Columbia, MD

### AARC

Thursday, April 2, 7:30 PM  
Davidsonville Family Rec.  
Center, 3789 Queen Anne  
Bridge Rd. Davidsonville

## KB1HIK NAMED NASA DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

Prof. Dava Newman KB1HIK was sworn in as NASA Deputy Administrator on May 15 from her Massachusetts Institute of Technology office. Newman is a professor of aeronautics, astronautics and engineering systems. On the MIT faculty since 1993, she directs the Institute's Technology and Policy Program and MIT Portugal Program. She is also co-director of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics Man Vehicle Laboratory. Her appointment had previously been confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 27th. (MIT)

## Cape Verde 2 Meter Beacon Heard in Bonaire

As reported in "The K7RA Solar Update" and the W1AW Propagation Bulletin (ARLP020/2015) for Friday, May 15 Dave Pedersen, PJ4VHF/N7BHC, on Bonaire copied a 2 meter CW signal from the D4C/B beacon on 144.436 MHz at Cape Verde via tropospheric ducting on May 6 (0100-0230 UTC). Bonaire is in the Caribbean just north of Venezuela, while Cape Verde is off the coast of Africa, west of Senegal -- a distance of nearly 3000 miles. The D4C beacon runs 20 W and is about 750 meters above sea level. Pederson was able to confirm the transmission with the beacon operator, HB9DUR. He was using a Kenwood TS-2000 and two 13 element Yagis. (ARRL LETTER)

Renew: Regular \$15; retired/student/disabled \$10; Family \$20

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915; Baltimore, MD 21282-5915